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SCIENCE

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1898.

ZOOLOGY AND THE PHILOSOPHY OF EVOLUTION.*

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"I have nothing to say to any Philosophy of Evolution. * * * Attempts to construct such a philosophy may be useful, but in my judgment they are premature."—HUXLEY: 'Collected Essays,' V.

THE facts given in the last two lectures seem to show that we cannot expect much from the 'Lamarckian factors,' even if they should prove to be factors; and while this impression may be wrong, it seems to be the rational frame of mind until it has proved wrong.

He who follows the current literature of zoology finds that many writers assure him, in effect, that the years which Darwin and Wallace gave to hard labor on the problem of species were thrown away, since all they tried to find out by hard work might have been deduced from the Philosophy of Evolution.

We were warned, long ago, that "whoever, unable to doubt and eager to affirm, shall establish principles, and, according to the unmoved truth of these, shall reject or receive others, * * * he shall exchange things for words, reason for insanity, the world for a fable, and shall be incapable of interpreting."

In 'philosophy' current history is sometimes ancient history, and the ardent dis-

* One of a course of lectures on the Foundations of Zoology as delivered in Columbia University, December, 1898.